

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending. Claim 29 is new. No new matter is added.

The Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the claims of Group I, Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 21-28, with traverse. As stated in the MPEP §803, if search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine the entire application on the merits, even though the entire application includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. Applicants' respectfully submit that it would not be unduly burdensome to perform a search on all of the claims together in the present application. Accordingly, the Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on that basis.

Applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 29 is drawn to the elected subject matter. As set forth by the Examiner, Group I includes Claims 1-8, 10-11 and 21-28. Claim 23 is directed to an antibody-producing cell line that produces an antibody that binds specifically to an oligopeptide of Claim 1 or Claim 12; and Claim 24 is directed to an antibody produced from the cell line of Claim 23. Therefore, included in the Examiner's restriction group is an antibody that was generated against and that binds specifically to the oligopeptide of Claim 12, i.e. "a purified oligopeptide selected from the group consisting of (SEQ ID NO:12) LQLQPFPQPQLPYPQPQLPYPQPQLPYPQPQPF, a deamidated counterpart thereof, and a conservatively modified variant thereof." Thus, the newly added claim is directed to subject matter substantially similar to the subject matter of originally filed Claim 24.

The Applicants expressly reserve the right under 35 USC §121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter or any subject matter disclosed in this application during the pendency of this application.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number STAN-258US5.

Respectfully submitted,
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